

WASHINGTON STAR

DATE

19 May

Page

A-1

Hancho Kim Gets Six Months In Korea Case

By Toni House
and Ron Sarro

Washington Star Staff Writers

Hancho Kim, the second person convicted in the ongoing Justice Department probe of South Korean influence-buying on Capitol Hill, was sentenced to six months in prison today.

U.S. District Judge Thomas A. Flannery imposed the sentence on Kim, a Korean-born businessman who lives in Lanham, Md., following his conviction April 8 of conspiracy to defraud the United States and lying before a federal grand jury.

Kim could have received a maximum sentence of five years and a \$10,000 fine on each charge.

FLANNERY ORDERED Kim to report to an as-yet undetermined federal prison June 5. However, Kim's attorney, David Povich, said his client plans to appeal, and probably will serve the sentence, if at all, following the exhaustion of the appeals procedure.

See KIM, A-5

Kim, a naturalized American citizen, has steadfastly denied allegations he received \$600,000 from the Korean CIA to buy influence on Capitol Hill.

The government has acknowledged that while it had "overwhelming evidence" of Kim's receipt of the money, there is no proof that Kim actually bribed or attempted to bribe any government officials.

On the other hand, Justice Department attorney John Kotelly argued to Flannery today that the government has no proof Kim did not bribe anyone, either.

Kotelly said the government could account for \$250,000 of the reputed \$600,000 payment to Kim, but Kim has refused to say what became of the \$350,000 balance.

KIM'S RELUCTANCE to discuss the matter has also gotten him into difficulty with the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, which has voted to cite him for contempt of Congress.

Povich asked Flannery to give Kim probation. He argued that Kim had led an "almost exemplary life" and had initially gotten involved with promoting the image of his native country after a 1973 visit there.

Povich compared Kim to South Korean rice merchant Tongsun Park, who admitted to paying out more than \$850,000 in an attempt to buy influence on Capitol Hill. Park was granted immunity by the Justice Department in exchange for his cooperation.

"He (Park) is the corrupter. He is the person who defrauded the United States," Povich argued.

Kim was the second person sentenced to a jail term in the influence-buying probe. Former congressman William Hanna, D-Calif., was sentenced April 24 to serve 6 to 30 months in jail following his pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy.

Charges are still pending against former Rep. Otto Passman, D-La., who is in a hospital in New Orleans. U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker

will determine Passman's ability to go to trial following a hearing later this month.

IN VIEW OF KIM'S conviction on conspiracy and perjury charges, the committee investigating congressional wrongdoing in the case has decided that he has not told House investigators all he knows about his own involvement and that of others in the scandal.

The committee acted against Kim during a four-hour closed-door session Wednesday night. Kim and his attorneys appeared during the session, but cautious committee staff members attempted to explain away his presence as a coincidence.

However, The Star has learned that the committee voted to ask the House to cite Kim for contempt for not disclosing what he was convicted of — conspiring with Korean intelligence agents to corrupt U.S. institutions.

The House committee wants to know about Kim's dealings with S. K. Kim, a KCIA agent, and the origin and disposition of \$600,000 which was allegedly used to bribe U.S. congressmen.

*File
media
on*